



PHILOSOPHY IS A SENSITIVE TOPIC

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It can be difficult to write about philosophy owing to the fact that the study itself is broad and all-encompassing. Aside from the moral and political arms of philosophy, such subjects as religion, ethics and logic are also covered by philosophy. I have always believed that philosophy is more readily studied by taking into consideration one's principles in life and one's beliefs at large.

What we believe in, unfortunately, does not always translate to what we do. There are many of us who are under the mercy of popular opinion. Their concepts, beliefs and principles are so governed by environmental considerations to even become noticeable by themselves. We have been born to have brains above our hearts, so we must learn to use our heads over our emotions. It doesn't prove all too easy, but many have succeeded immensely in this respect. Far be it from us to deign and claim simple ignorance or unawareness. We should learn to devote our time and effort to what is worthwhile and worth supporting.

The Holy Book has advised that we should "neither be hot or cold". We should learn to stand up for something and either reject or support some things. It's no fun being lukewarm; even coffee loses its taste in tepid water. To be undecided is apathetic. To say, "I subscribe to no religion", might be safe and friendly, but hey! Is that real living?

Those who strongly believe in something and some things tend to have a more focused appraisal of things. They are prone to having a clearer perspective because their purpose is more clearly spelled out. However, enmity of the other side is apparent, since such people tend to push too hard or take things too hard. Aggressiveness is not always the key, despite the fact that it has brought about changes of a global scale. See how extremists are strongly inclined to blow things out of proportion, subjugating others with their strong, radical outlooks. The road to hell is infinitely paved with good intentions. It is therefore best to take a careful stance on things, studied but decisive, easy but straight.

Talking about anything will not bring results; it is the actions that count. But ultimately, we are accountable for our own actions. Therefore, our only recourse is to take a detailed approach before putting our thoughts into action. No haphazard planning, no freakish excuses. Just firm, concise, pure and determined systems of actions that count in all aspects as significant. Life is a philosophy in itself. There are times when events defy logic. But we are responsible for the life we live and the lives we influence. Tread carefully, lest ye fall into ruin.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. What are your beliefs on religion?
2. What factors have influenced your political beliefs?
3. Talk about one ancient philosopher you admire the most.
4. How can philosophy set people apart from others?
5. Why is it never easy to talk about philosophy?